

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Request
for
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/683,376
Filing Date	December 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Robert W. Droege
Art Unit	3641
Examiner Name	Jack W. Keith
Attorney Docket Number	24-NS-6049

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____
ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
ii. Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s) iv. Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
b. Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

a. Deposit Account No. 01-2384
i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
iii. Other Any additional fees required
b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	William J. Zychlewicz	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	51,366
Signature		Date	May 4, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)		Date
Signature		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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24-NS-6049
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Robert W. Droege : Art Unit: 3641
Serial No.: 09/683,376 : Examiner: Keith, Jack W.
Filed: December 19, 2001 :
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR OPERATING A :
SYSTEM :
:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop: RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2004, and made final, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

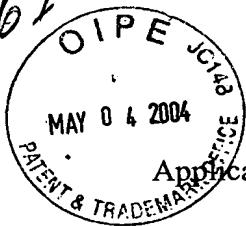
05-05-04

IFW RCE/3641

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 24-NS-6049

61 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Robert W. Droege : Group No.: 3641
Serial No.: 09/683,376 : Examiner: Jack W. Keith
Filed: December 19, 2001 :
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR :
OPERATING A SYSTEM :
:

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

1. Transmitted herewith is:
Transmittal (3 pages); RCE (1 page, in duplicate); Amendment After Final (12 pages);
Postcard

STATUS

2. Applicant
 claims small entity status.
 is other than a small entity.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL TO
THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Express Mail No. EL977939363US

Date: May 4, 2004

I hereby certify that the documents listed above are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

William J. Zychlewicz, Reg. 51,366

EXTENSION OF TERM

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136
(Fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:)

Extension for response within:	Other than small entity Fee	Small entity Fee (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> first month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> second month	\$ 420.00	\$ 210.00
<input type="checkbox"/> third month	\$ 950.00	\$ 475.00
<input type="checkbox"/> fourth month	\$1,480.00	\$ 740.00
<input type="checkbox"/> fifth month	\$2,010.00	\$1,005.00

Fee Due \$ _____

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(Check and complete the next item, if applicable)

An extension of _____ months has already been secured. The fee paid therefor \$_____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ _____.

OR

(b) Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	ADDITIONAL RATE FEE	OR	ADDITIONAL RATE FEE	
TOTAL INDEP.	MINUS		=	x \$9 = \$		x \$18 = \$
	MINUS		=	x \$43 = \$		x \$86 = \$
— FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+ \$145 = \$		+ \$290 = \$
				TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$	OR	TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$

(a) No additional fee for Claims is required

OR

(b) Total additional fee for claims required \$

FEE PAYMENT

5. Attached is a check in the sum of \$_____

Charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384 the sum of \$.
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

FEE DEFICIENCY

6. If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

AND/OR

If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

7. Other:



William J. Zychlewicz
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314-621-5070